

La Dolce Vita... The Good Life Aboard The MSC Lirica



Photos courtesy of MSC Cruises

By Barbara McGovern

away. I loved all the food — what a shock — but my favorite thing was having breakfast served on our balcony. There is something to be said for sitting out on a beautiful patio, sipping tea watching the azure sea slip by. Ahh, bliss.

The ship service was first class. The entire staff is dedicated to seeing that your trip is everything that you want it to be. “Beautiful, Passionate, Italian” is their slogan and it aptly describes their hospitality and cuisine. The activities aboard the ship are geared to every age group. I was surprised to see such a varied age group



on this cruise. Since it was a long cruise I assumed that most of the passengers would be of retirement age. This definitely wasn't the case, as there were a lot of young couples and quite a few very young children traveling with their parents. It was a good mix. Most of the passengers were from Europe and the U.K.

This is a cruise line that isn't as well known in the U.S. as it should be. The cruise was so good that the ports of call were just icing on the cake. A cruise on

the MSC Lirica is like going to a wonderful resort where you have everything you want and someone to take care of it all for you.

MSC is an Italian owned cruise line with a fleet of 8 cruise ships with 5 more coming on line within the next few years. It is part of the Mediterranean Shipping Co., a privately owned group founded in 1970. Specializing in worldwide ocean transportation, MSC is the 2nd largest container carrier in the world with more than 300 container ships. MSC Cruises was founded in 1990, and they have distinctive itineraries in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Northern Europe and South America. The latest ship to join the fleet is the MSC Musica. It is the largest ship in the fleet and will be joined by a sister ship the MSC Orchestra later on this year.



There are too many wonderful Mediterranean destinations to list (and I want to go to each one.) The Caribbean sailings leave from Ft. Lauderdale and feature deep Caribbean, Caribbean and Panama itineraries.



As I said, this is a cruise line that isn't very well know in the U.S. but that will be changing quickly. For brochures or more information call 800-666-9333. Visit their website at www.msccruises.com. Reservations can be made through your travel agent.

My husband and I recently experienced a wonderful trip aboard the MSC Lirica. We've gone on many cruises but this was the first trans-Atlantic crossing that we made. What an adventure. During one trip we visited Europe, Africa, South America, the Caribbean and North America. We covered over 6,000 miles in 18 days and only packed and unpacked once. That's what I call the way to go.

The MSC Lirica is a beautiful 5 year old ship. She is very European with great style and flair. The ship is a perfect size with room for 2,069 guests. Every amenity is available, from spas, pools, shows with first class entertainment, a casino and outstanding shopping along “Rodeo Drive.” There is a golf course (really) and exercise rooms that are fully equipped. If you are looking for quiet time there are card rooms, internet rooms and a library. Did I mention the food? If they don't serve it, you don't need it. You can eat from early morning, all through the day and evening and if you are still hungry, there is always the midnight buffet. You can take advantage of the exercise room if you really get carried